

We Claim:

- Sub 1
1. A method of generating medical information including quantitative and image data, comprising steps of:
 - performing an image acquisition of at least a portion of patient to be examined;
 - generating image data based on the performed acquisition;
 - generating quantitative data based on the performed acquisition; and
 - constructing a DICOM compatible file, the image data being provided in an image data field and the quantitative data being provided in another field of the DICOM compatible file.
 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the acquisition is performed and the image data generated using a bone densitometer.
 3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the quantitative data comprises bone mineral density (BMD) data or quantitative morphometry.
 4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the image data comprises an image of a patient's anatomy which was acquired.
 5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the quantitative data comprises quantitative report data.
 6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the quantitative report data comprises BMD

data, T scores and Z scores.

Pub 57 7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the quantitative data provided in the image comments field is in a form of at least one of HTML, XML and Java Script files.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the quantitative data in the image comments field contains the analysis results in computer readable form.

9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the computer readable form is JavaScript.

Pub 62 10. A system as recited in claim 8, wherein the computer readable form is HTML.

11. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising steps of:
communicating the DICOM compatible file across a network;
receiving the DICOM compatible file at a DICOM compliant station;
extracting the quantitative data from the image comments field of the DICOM compatible file; and
generating a report using the extracted quantitative data.

* 12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the extracting step is performed using a Hologic Active X Control.

13. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the quantitative data includes raw data used to generate a report.

14. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the other field of the DICOM file is an Image Comments field.

Sub B3 15. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein data in the Image Comments field contains parameters which control a process of report generation allowing for customization of a report.

16. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the quantitative report data comprises quantitative morphometry data.

17. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the computer readable form is XML.

Sub B4 18. A method of generating a DICOM file including embedded quantitative data, said method comprising:
generating a report image file;
embedding the report image file as an image file portion of the DICOM file; and
embedding the quantitative data, used to create the report image file, in another field of the DICOM file.

19. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the report image file comprises a bitmap image file.

20. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the quantitative data used to create the report image file comprises raw data.

21. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the quantitative data used to create the report image file comprises bone mineral density (BMD) data.

22. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the other field comprises an Image Comments field of the DICOM file.

23. A computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code for creating a DICOM compliant file, said code comprising:

- code for creating a report, including quantitative data, from acquisition data generated by an image capture device or another form of data entry;
- code for creating a bitmap image file representing the created report;
- code for embedding the bitmap image file in an image field of a DICOM compliant file;
- and
- code for embedding the quantitative data in another field of the DICOM compliant file.

24. A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the quantitative data comprises raw data used to create the report.
25. A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the quantitative data comprises bone mineral density (BMD) data.
26. A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the other form of data entry includes manual entry.
27. A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the other field comprises an Image Comments field of the DICOM file.